

News of Members

Gwen Hussey's funeral took place on 13 November. It was pleasing to see that so many club members could attend the service at Tovey's in Newport. Gwen left her stamp collection exclusively for the benefit of club members. We have found homes for all of the stamps and books, with my house now breathing a sigh of relief. I hope that members are pleased with what they have obtained.

Neil Jones had an honourable mention in Gibbons Stamp Monthly for his contribution to an article on New Zealand. John Perry became a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in January 2014 and was elected President of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society in March 2014.

Recent meetings

The first meeting in November had the title "Going Green". This brought out lots of material on how stamps have been re-used, including overprinting to use up old stocks. Chris Griffiths (France Post Office Training Stamps), Maureen Phillips (Stamps in sheets) and Brian Brandon (Priority labels) provided the team from Bridgend for the next meeting. The final meeting before Christmas was the social evening, where we also saw a selection of Gwen Hussey's Christmas collection.

The new year started with the letter "C" where eleven of the members present selected subjects as diverse as Cartoons, Cologne and Cruising on the C. Members also took home some of Gwen's books and stamps. The Chairman's Night featured Alistair Mackinnon displaying Japanese Antarctica. We were due a visit from the Barry club early in February but they had to cancel. The gap was filled by Michael Bale's Lundy and John Perry's Monmouthshire displays from the meeting of the RPSL in January. The auction night followed.

Competition night saw only six entries with the winners being Neil Jones with his eight-sheet entry of New Zealand Chalon Heads (General and best eight-sheet entry), Michael Bale with his eight sheets of George VI (GB), Les Ashton-Smith with his entry on the Leonardo Da Vinci ship (Thematic) and John Perry with his Queen

Anne's Bounty (Postal History). The three sixteen-sheet entries went forward to the Federation Convention competition.

The remaining meetings saw Roy Holliss bringing along some of his Cover Love stock, Michael Bale with the second instalment of his George VI collection (British Guiana to Gambia), Stuart Geddes displaying some choice Monmouthshire material and the Ladies' Night.



It is always good fun visiting other clubs. John Perry, Martyn Britton and Roy Bentley made the annual visit to the Cardiff Club early in March. Augmented by Alistair Mackinnon, the club then made a first visit to the Bath society at the end of March and completed the visiting programme, minus Roy, with the trip to Bridgend early in April. In addition, John Perry had the opportunity to display some Swedish American Line and Czeslaw Slania material to Bristol Woodlands, and some of his Venice collection to the Nailsea club.

Summer meetings

Traditionally Summer meetings have been held at members' houses but attendance tends to be lower than for other meetings. This Summer we have booked the Civic Centre for these dates:
25 June 2014 - Visit from Barry stamp club
23 July 2014 - Bring, buy and swap
20 August 2014 - Planning for Autumn Day

Juniors

The past six months have been very busy with visits to the schools in Monmouthshire. Led by Erene Grieve and accompanied by Bev Davies and John Perry, The Dell, Archbishop Rowan and Pembroke schools in Chepstow have been given an introduction to stamp collection.

Bev continues to run the stamp club at The Dell, with the efforts of the youngsters being put into completing competition entries. Of the two eight-sheet entries, that by George Smith on

trains was judged as the better entry and was submitted to the South Wales Convention competition. In addition, there were six four-page entries, with Olivia O'Riordan's garden flowers being judged as the best entry.

Bev and John also ran a successful morning session at Chepstow library and are planning another one at Caldicot library. It would be great if any other club members could help out by suggesting schools for visits or by helping with school or library talks.

On a family visit at the end of November 2013, John Perry gave a talk to forty children at the local Rosewell school (near Roslyn Chapel and Edinburgh). This followed Erene Grieve's format. John followed this up with an article in the ABPS News Spring 2014 issue (www.abps.org.uk/News/index.xalter).

Stamp News

If you collect Scout and Guide Christmas posts, John Crabbe has a website johcra7.100webSPACE.net/ devoted to these local issues. He has just updated it with information that I provided on the Newport post and has provided a copy of the first (1990) issue to complete my collection. Neither of us has seen a copy of the Torfaen 1990 issue. Can any member help? I have not seen any of the issues from Blaenau Gwent, Ebbw Vale, Panteg or Raglan but do have an example of the Islwyn post. Again any help would be appreciated. Examples of the items in my collection are shown on our own club website, including the latest issue from Christmas 2013. The ten designs are similar to the 2012 issue but there are some changes and the ordering differs as does the price, up from 18p to 20p www.sewales.me.uk/NewportChristmas.htm.

Being a long-time collector of Finland, an article in *The I* on 19 April 2014 caught my eye. Finland will be issuing a stamp showing homoerotic art (www.posti.fi/english/). One could say "the bare cheek of it!"

Possibly the world's most expensive stamp, the British Guiana one cent, is up for sale at Sotheby's in 17 June 2104 and is expect to make £12 million. This would eclipse the £1.6 million paid for the Swedish Tre Skilling error of colour in 2010. Get your cheque books out and you could be the new owner.

RPSL & Welsh Philatelic Society (WPS)

The meeting of the Welsh region of the RPSL at

its London building on 30 January 2014 was a great success with at least 111 members and guests attending. All of the thirteen members in Wales, of whom Michael Bale and John Perry are from the Newport club, and four other RPSL members who are members of the WPS but not living in Wales provided displays. The four and John Perry will display again at the WPS meeting in Tan y Bwlch in June 2014.

Federation News

Our club has agreed to host the South Wales Federation Autumn Day on 20 September 2014. This will be at the Graig Community Centre in Bassaleg NP10 8LG. This is the annual event that moves round South Wales with a mix of club and dealer tables. Please make a note in your diary and tell your friends.

As many of you know, Chris Doble has stopped running his fair in Neath but Mark Grimsley has taken this on starting on 7 May 2014. Chris' Cardiff fair will also continue. The Neath Fairs run on the first Wednesday of each month and the Cardiff fairs are on the following Thursday. Please give Mark your full support.

A Bit of Club History

Members may be interest in the balance sheet prepared for the AGM in 1971. Only Dennis Martin, our treasurer, was a member at the time, having first joined in 1966. The AGM and other meetings were held in Tony Wong's Hong Kong restaurant in Griffin Street Newport.

CREDIT		DEBIT	
	£-s-d		£-s-d
B/F LAST YEAR	10-5-6	ROOM RENT	4-0-0
SUBS 220/11	11-0-0	POSTAGES	17-6
MEMBERS FRAMES	14-10-0	REG. POST FRAMES	9-0
BY 1ST CLASS		FOR COLLECTION	
SALE STAMP	1-0-0	RECEIPT BOOK	2-6
1ST CLASS		TIP P.O. SURGE	10-0
ANNUAL 10%	10-6	FRAMES 1ST CLASS	1-5-0
CLUB BOND 10%	8-0	CURR. CREDIT 11	1-0-0
TOTAL	27-14-0	TOTAL	27-14-0
EXPENDITURE	£8-20		
CASH IN HAND	£19-50		
TOTAL	£27-70		

John Perry, Honorary Secretary (Tel: 01633 881068)